

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 8, 12 and 13 are amended. No new matter is added.

I. Personal Interview

The courtesies extended to Applicants' representative by Examiner Preston and Primary Examiner Tamai during the interview held December 20, 2005, are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below and constitute Applicants' record of the interview.

II. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-6, 10 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent 3,198,972 to Larson. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Larson fails to disclose each and every feature recited in the rejected claims. For example, Larson fails to disclose an AC generator for a vehicle comprising, . . . a rectifier fixedly secured to said frame and equipped with a radiating fin which cools a rectifying element and makes an electrical connection, . . . wherein said radiating fin includes a fixing portion to which said rectifying element is fixedly secured and a sub-fin extending radially from said fixing portion, and said radiating fin has an air passage surrounded by said fixing portion, said sub-fin and an outer circumferential end portion of said radiating fin, as recited in independent claim 1.

As discussed during the interview, Larson relates to a dynamoelectric machine that has an alternating current output winding connected with built-in diodes (col. 1, lines 9-13). The dynamoelectric machine 10 includes end frames 12 and 14 and a heat sink 70. The heat sink 70 has three openings 72, 74 and 76 which receive diodes 78, 80 and 82 (see Fig. 2; col. 2, lines 56-64). The diodes are press-fitted into the openings with the outer metal cases of the diodes contacting the internal walls of these openings (col. 3, lines 3-8).

The heat sink 70 is also formed with projecting air directing ribs 84, 86 and 88 which partially encircle the diode openings and the diodes when they are in place in the openings. The projecting rib 86 is generally horseshoe-shaped, whereas the projecting ribs 84 and 88 encircle only one side of the diode openings 72 and 76. The heat sink 70 is also formed with generally straight radially extending ribs 90 shown in Figs. 2 and 4 (col. 3, lines 9-17). Thus, the "opening" in Larson does not correspond to the air passage recited in the rejected claims. The "opening" of Larson is clearly described as being filled with a diode that is in contact with the heat sink thereby completely filling the opening with the diode. Thus, the "opening" in Larson cannot serve to allow for axial air flow. In other words, the "opening" in Larson is no longer an opening when the diode is press-fitted in the heat sink 70 and cannot be construed to mean an opening portion as that term is used in this application.

In setting forth the claims which Applicants regard as his invention, an inventor may choose to be his or her own lexicographer by defining, with reasonable clarity, deliberateness and precision, the specific terms used to describe his invention. *In re Paulsen*, 30 F.3d 1475, 1480, 31 USPQ 2d 1671, 1674 (Fed. Cir. 1994). In this regard, words which are defined in the specification must be given the same meaning when used in a claim. *McGill, Inc. v. John Zink Co.*, 736 F.2d 666, 674, 221 USPQ 944, 949 (Fed. Cir. 1984). Moreover, in interpreting the words of a claim, the claims are to be given their broadest reasonable interpretation consistent with the specification during examination of the patent (see MPEP §2111). "The specification aids in ascertaining the scope and meaning of the language employed in the claims inasmuch as words must be used in the same way in both the claims and the specification." *In re ZMI Corp., "The Cardiac Resuscitator."* 844 F.2d 1576, 6 USPQ F.2d 1557, 1560 (Fed. Cir. 1988).

Thus, when interpreting the words of the rejected claims consistent with the specification, it is clear that the opening portion is not that which is filled by a rectifying

element. Rather, as recited in the amended claims, the rectifying element is fixedly secured to a fixing portion and the radiating fin has an air passage surrounded by the fixing portion, the sub-fin and an outer circumferential end portion of the radiating fins. Thus, in contrast to the allegations in the Office Action, an air passage cannot be that which is filled with the rectifying element. As Larson fails to disclose any such air passage, Larson fails to anticipate any of claims 1-6, 10 and 11. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-6, 10 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is respectfully requested.

Claims 12-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by JP 10-056760 to Hirouki. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Hirouki fails to disclose each and every feature recited in the rejected claims. For example, as discussed during the interview, Hirouki fails to disclose an AC generator for a vehicle, comprising . . . a rectifier fixedly secured to said frame and equipped with a radiating fin which cools a rectifying element and makes an electrical connection . . . wherein said radiating fin includes a fixing portion to which said rectifying element is fixedly secured and a first sub-fin extending radially from said fixing portion and a second sub-fin made to divide an air passage surrounded by said fixing portion, said first sub-fin and an outer circumferential end portion of said radiating fin, and the first sub-fin traverses the air passage and the second sub-fin, as recited in independent claim 12.

Hirouki relates to an AC generator for a vehicle having a heat sink 53 on which is formed an embossed part 57 and four through holes 59, which are used as ventilation ports, are formed on a slope of the embossed parts 57. Heat radiation fins are formed at a side surface of each of the embossed parts 57 (see Fig. 3 of Hirouki).

It is merely alleged that a fixing portion is shown in Fig. 7A of Hirouki and a first sub-fin is shown in Fig. 3 as reference number 52. However, as recited in claim 12, the fixing

portion is included on the radiating fin and is that portion to which said rectifying element is fixedly secured.

Fig. 7A fails to disclose any such fixing portion or rectifying element. Rather, the rectifying elements are described in Hirouki as reference numbers 54, 55 as shown in Fig. 3, for example. As shown in Fig. 3, the rectifying elements 54, 55 are disposed on a back side of heat sinks 53 and 52 (see also paragraph [0025] describing the position of the rectifying device on the heat sink). Moreover, as discussed and agreed during the interview, there is no first sub-fin extending radially from said fixing portion and the first sub-fin traverses the air passage and the second sub-fin in the Hirouki reference. Finally, because Hirouki fails to disclose an air passage surrounded by a fixing portion, said first sub-fin, and an outer circumferential end portion of the radiating fin, Hirouki fails to anticipate the rejected claims. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 12-17 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is respectfully requested.

III. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

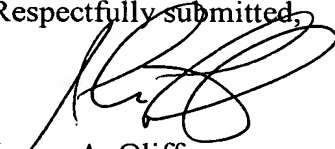
Claims 7-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Larson in view of Hirouki. The rejection is respectfully traversed. Claims 7-9 are allowable for at least their dependency on independent claim 1 for the reasons discussed above, as well as for the additional features recited therein. Furthermore, as neither of the applied references, whether considered alone or in combination, disclose or suggest each and every feature recited in the claims as amended, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 7-9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-17 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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